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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY USSR (Bryansk Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 3 May 1950

SUBJECT Bryansk Airfield

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. The largely expanded airfield northwest of Bryansk (34°22' E/53°14' N), Bryansk Oblast, was allegedly to be further expanded toward Bezhitsa. The entire landing field was at least 2 km square. There were a runway and taxiway, three large hangars, steel structures with glass roof and large sliding doors, superstructures of boxcars used as emergency quarters.
2. A square steel tower, about 30 meters high, connected to the ground with a wire netting, was on the southern edge of the field.
3. About 20 searchlights set up around the field flashed at night during the take-offs and landings. There were AA emplacements, with four-barrel 88-mm AA guns about 1 km west of the field according to fellow PWs.
4. The field was occupied by:
 - a. About 10 twin-engine transports: long, slim fuselage, full view cockpit closed at the bottom, wings slightly swept back and dihedral, rounded wing tips. Slightly smaller than the Ju-52, faster than the Douglas. Painted blue-gray, Soviet star and multi-digit figure on wings.
 - b. Ninety to a hundred single-engine fighters: Radial engine, three bladed propeller, trapezoidal wings, rounded wing tips, retractable tail wheel. Painted dark blue. Soviet star and multi-digit figure as marking.
 - c. About 180 jet aircraft: Low-wing monoplane, round air intake in nose, oval cross section of mid-fuselage, considerably swept back wings slightly dihedral, edges parallel, angular rudder assembly relatively small, elevator assembly considerably swept back and slightly dihedral. Some planes, which seemed to be smaller than the others, had three barrels (about 20 mm caliber) in the nose. The larger planes had two guns under each wing. It was observed that the aircraft also practiced firing in the air.
5. Flying activity:
 - a. The transports flew individually or at most three planes at a time. They took off in the morning heading in the direction of Orel and returned in the evening. Flights were made in any type weather.

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b. The fighters flew individually and in formations of up to 20 planes, doing combat practice and sharp shooting at ground and sleeve targets. Flights were made at any time of the day and in any weather.

c. Three jet aircraft at a time usually flew in flights, lines, or rows. Formations of 20 aircraft each were twice observed in July 1949 in the following arrangement of two squadron javelin formations beside each other:

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Comment:

a. The report confirms that the field was heavily occupied by jet fighters and conventional fighters in June and July 1949. It is assumed that, in addition to fighter units equipped with conventional and jet aircraft, a re-equipment point for jet aircraft and a school for retraining on jet aircraft are also stationed in Bryansk.

b. The unusually heavy occupation of the field may possibly be connected with the practices for the Moscow parade. According to previous reports, it was not assumed that so many swept back aircraft were permanently stationed in Bryansk during the reported period of observation.

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 letter of 16 October 1978 from the
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